IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 1-6 and 9.

1-6.   (Canceled).

7. (Original)   A method for tape management in a network system which connects, via a network:

a first system which virtually emulates a magnetic tape unit on a disk drive and has a virtual tape unit having a virtual tape storage area, a first virtual tape file, and a first virtual tape transfer processing unit having first virtual tape management information defining a structure of said first virtual tape file; and

a second system having a second virtual tape file, a second virtual tape transfer processing unit having second virtual tape management information defining a structure of said second virtual tape file, and a tape using task execution part, said method comprising:

a step in which said tape using task execution part gives a virtual tape input request;

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer processing unit locks said second virtual tape file to give a virtual tape input request to said first virtual tape transfer processing unit;

a step in which according to said input request, said first virtual tape transfer processing unit locks a virtual tape volume and said first virtual tape file to create said first virtual tape file and said first virtual tape management information to said input request;

a step in which said first virtual tape file is transferred to said second virtual tape file using a copy function between disk drives so as to be asynchronous to said first system;

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer processing unit allows said tape using task execution part to use said second virtual tape file;

a step in which said first virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks said virtual tape volume and said first virtual tape file; and

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer processing unit unlocks said second virtual tape file.

8. (Original) A method for tape management in a network system which connects, via a network:

a first system which virtually emulates a magnetic tape unit on a disk drive and has a virtual tape unit having a virtual tape storage area, a first virtual tape file, and a

4

first virtual tape transfer processing unit having first

virtual tape management information defining a structure of

said first virtual tape file; and

a second system having a second virtual tape file, a

second virtual tape transfer processing unit having second

virtual tape management information defining a structure of

said second virtual tape file, and a tape using task execution

part, said method comprising:

a step in which said tape using task execution part gives

a virtual tape output request;

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer

processing unit locks said second virtual tape file to give a

virtual tape output request to said first virtual tape

transfer processing unit;

a step in which according to said output request, said

first virtual tape transfer processing unit locks a virtual

tape volume and said first virtual tape file to notify, to

said second virtual tape processing unit, that the virtual

tape is usable;

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer

processing unit outputs said second virtual tape file in

response to said notification to transfer said second virtual

tape file to said first virtual tape file using a copy

function between disk drives;

a step in which said first virtual tape transfer

processing unit returns data from said first virtual tape file

and said first virtual tape management information to said

virtual tape storage area after said transfer;

a step in which said first virtual tape transfer

processing unit unlocks said virtual tape volume and said

first virtual tape file when said transfer is completed; and

a step in which said second virtual tape transfer

processing unit unlocks said second virtual tape file when

said transfer is completed.

9.   (Canceled).